

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 03-44

Declaring December 2003 as Drunk Driving Prevention Month

WHEREAS, our young men between the ages of 21 and 35 are the group most at-risk for injury or death caused by driving under the influence of alcohol in Palau; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, approximately two-thirds of the deaths in Palau were due to motor vehicle crashes associated with alcohol use; and

WHEREAS, the community must not ignore this reckless behaviour, causing enormous loss of life, needless injury and heart-breaking grief to our people; and

WHEREAS, there are also substantial financial costs borne by our people and the Republic as a result of this inexcusable behavior; and

WHEREAS, with some simple lifestyle changes, many lives and considerable money can be saved; and

WHEREAS, establishments licensed to sell alcohol must comply with laws aimed at protecting the people through the prohibition of the sale of alcohol to intoxicated customers; and

WHEREAS, friends, family and concerned citizens must do their part by not allowing persons to drive after they have been consuming alcoholic beverages; and

WHEREAS, all persons are requested to assist in the effort to eliminate drunk driving by alerting police officers of such activities and by fully cooperating at sobriety checkpoints; and

WHEREAS, I beseech each citizen to discourage anyone from driving after drinking alcohol, and encourage all citizens to make a conscious effort to ensure a safe and healthy holiday season for all Palauans; and

WHEREAS, all citizens are encouraged to designate a driver who will not drink any alcohol at holiday gatherings, and who will take the responsibility to drive anyone who should not be driving himself or herself home from such a gathering.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, do hereby proclaim this month, December 2003, as National Drunk Driving Prevention Month. In so doing, I call upon the Ministries of justice, Health and Education to coordinate the activities related to this proclamation and that all citizens, public agencies and private businesses in Palau observe and join such activities to eliminate drunk driving in Palau.

SO PROCLAIMED *this 9th day of December 2003*, at Koror, Republic of Palau.

/s/

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau